

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Hagstrom Properties, L.L.C.,)	
)	
Plaintiff(s),)	No. C06-4338 MMC (BZ)
)	
v.)	NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT
)	CONFERENCE AND ORDER
Dow Cleaners, et al.,)	SCHEDULING SETTLEMENT
)	CONFERENCE
Defendant(s).)	
)	
_____)	

The above matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Bernard Zimmerman for settlement purposes.

You are hereby notified that a settlement conference is scheduled for **Thursday, December 13, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.**, in Courtroom G, 15th Floor, Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

It is the responsibility of counsel to ensure that whatever discovery is needed for all sides to evaluate the case for settlement purposes is completed by the date of the settlement conference. Counsel shall cooperate in providing discovery informally and expeditiously.

Lead trial counsel shall appear at the Settlement

1 Conference with the parties. Any party who is not a natural
2 person shall be represented by the person or persons **not**
3 **directly involved** in the events which gave rise to the
4 litigation but with **full** authority to negotiate a settlement.
5 A person who needs to call another person not present before
6 agreeing to any settlement does not have full authority. If a
7 party is a governmental entity, its governing body shall
8 designate one of its members or a senior executive to appear
9 at the Settlement Conference with authority to participate in
10 the Settlement Conference and, if a tentative settlement
11 agreement is reached, to recommend the agreement to the
12 governmental entity for its approval. An insured party shall
13 appear with a representative of the carrier with full
14 authority to negotiate up to the limits of coverage. The
15 Court shall be notified immediately if the carrier declines to
16 attend. Personal attendance of a party representative will
17 rarely be excused by the Court, and then only upon separate
18 written application demonstrating substantial hardship served
19 on opposing counsel and lodged as early as the basis for the
20 hardship is known but no later than the Settlement Conference
21 Statement.

22 Each party shall prepare a Settlement Conference
23 Statement, which must be served on opposing counsel and lodged
24 (not faxed) with my chambers no later than seven calendar days
25 prior to the conference. The Statement shall **not** be filed
26 with the Clerk of the Court. The Statement **may** be submitted
27 on CD-ROM with hypertext links to exhibits. Otherwise, the
28 portion of exhibits on which the party relies **shall** be

1 highlighted. The Settlement Conference Statement shall not
2 exceed ten pages of text and twenty pages of exhibits and
3 shall include the following:

4 1. A brief statement of the facts of the case.

5 2. A brief statement of the claims and defenses
6 including, but not limited to, statutory or other grounds upon
7 which the claims are founded.

8 3. A list of the key (not more than three) facts in
9 dispute and a brief statement of the **specific** evidence
10 relevant to a determination of those facts.

11 4. A summary of the proceedings to date and any pending
12 motions.

13 5. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for
14 further discovery, pretrial and trial.

15 6. The relief sought, including an itemization of
16 damages.

17 7. The parties' position on settlement, including
18 present demands and offers and a history of past settlement
19 discussions. The Court's time can best be used to assist the
20 parties in completing their negotiations, not in starting
21 them. Accordingly, plaintiff must serve a demand in writing
22 no later than fourteen days before the conference and
23 defendant must respond in writing no later than eight days
24 before the conference. If plaintiff seeks attorney's fees and
25 costs, plaintiff's counsel shall either include the fee claim
26 in the demand or make a separate, simultaneous demand for fees
27 and costs. Counsel shall be prepared at the conference to
28 provide sufficient information to enable the fee claim to be

1 evaluated for purposes of settlement. The parties are urged
2 to carefully evaluate their case before taking a settlement
3 position since extreme positions hinder the settlement
4 process.

5 Along with the Statement each party shall lodge with the
6 court a document of no more than three pages containing a
7 **candid** evaluation of the parties' likelihood of prevailing on
8 the claims and defenses, and any other information that party
9 wishes not to share with opposing counsel. The more candid
10 the parties are, the more productive the conference will be.
11 This document shall not be served on opposing counsel.

12 It is not unusual for conferences to last three or more
13 hours. Parties are encouraged to participate and frankly
14 discuss their case. Statements they make during the
15 conference will not be admissible at trial in the event the
16 case does not settle. The parties should be prepared to
17 discuss such issues as:

- 18 1. Their settlement objectives.
- 19 2. Any impediments to settlement they perceive.
- 20 3. Whether they have enough information to discuss
21 settlement. If not, what additional information is needed.
- 22 4. The possibility of a creative resolution of the
23 dispute.

24 The parties shall notify Magistrate Judge Zimmerman's
25 chambers immediately if this case settles prior to the date
26 set for settlement conference. Counsel shall provide a copy
27 of this order to each party who will participate in the
28 conference.

1 Dated: September 18, 2007

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4 BERNARD ZIMMERMAN
5 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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